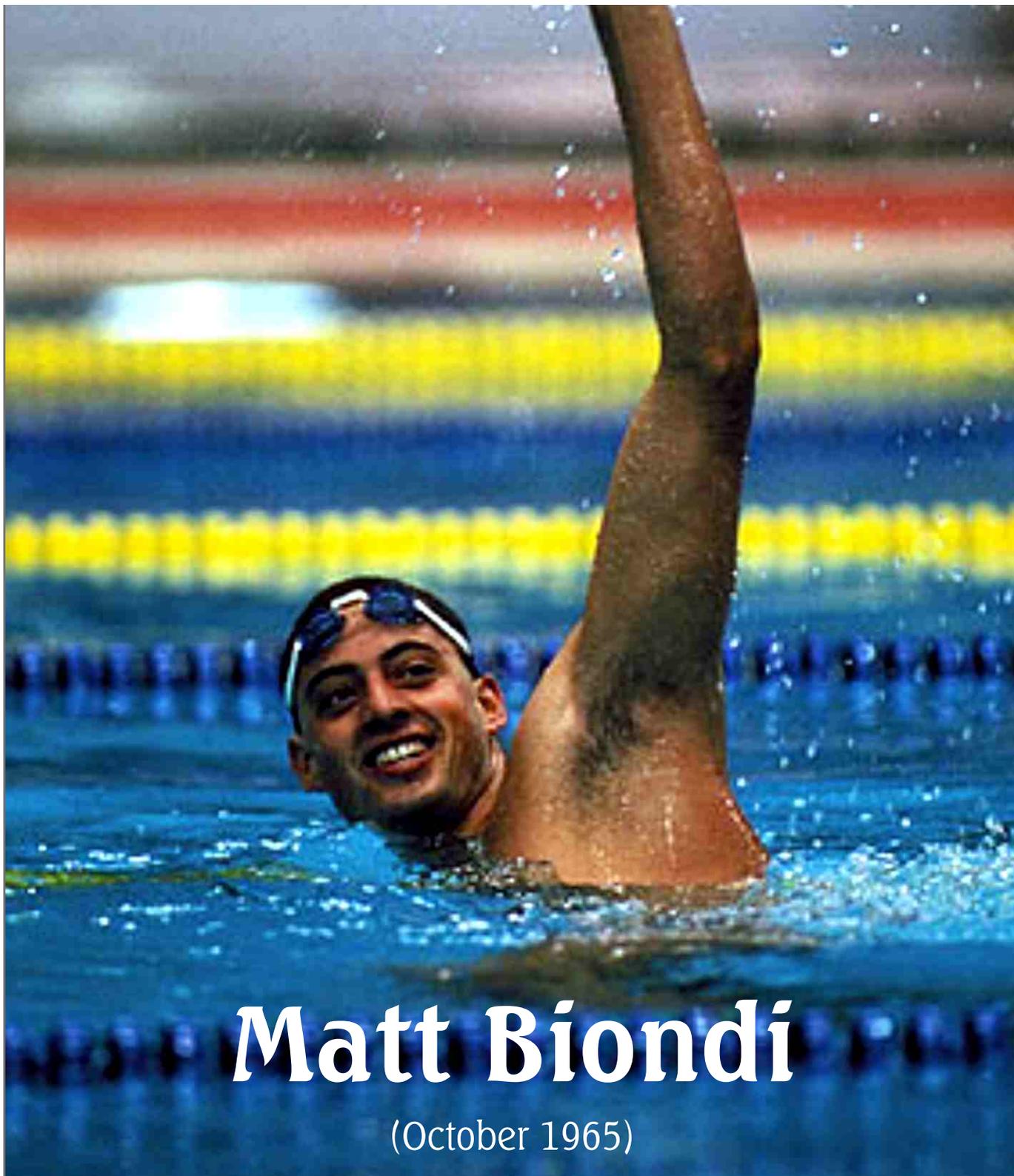


LARGER THAN **LIFE**
A CELEBRATION OF GREATNESS



Matt Biondi

(October 1965)

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INTRODUCTION

Matthew ("Matt") Nicholas Biondi is a three-time U.S. Olympic swimmer in the 1984, 1988, and 1992 Summer Olympics, winning a total of 11 medals. In the 1988 Summer Olympics, Biondi equalled Mark Spitz as the second swimmer to win seven medals in one Games. Biondi left Seoul with five golds, setting world records in four of those events.

BIRTH AND EARLY YEARS

Matthew ("Matt") Nicholas Biondi was born on October 8, 1965 in Palo Alto, California. started his aquatics career as a swimmer and water polo player in his hometown of Moraga, California. As he moved into his teens, his incredible abilities as a swimmer -- specifically a sprinter -- began to emerge. Though he did not start swimming year-round until he started at Campolindo High School, by his senior year Biondi was the top schoolboy sprinter in America with a National High School record of 20.40 seconds in the 50-yard freestyle.

He accepted a scholarship to the University of California, Berkeley to swim and play water polo, and enrolled in 1983. In his freshman year he played on Berkeley's NCAA Championship water polo team and made the consolation finals at the 1984 NCAA Swimming Championships.

Professional Career

In 1984 summer, he surprised the swimming community by qualifying for a spot on the U.S. 4x100 meter freestyle relay at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. The team won the gold medal in a world record time. Returning to Berkeley, Biondi once again played on an NCAA Champion water polo team in the fall and in the winter of 1985 won the first of his 8 individual swimming titles at NAAs. He would be named NCAA Swimmer of the Year in 1985, 1986, and 1987, and would set several American and NCAA records.

SETTING THE WORLD RECORD

Biondi set the first of his twelve individual swimming world records in 1985. He was the first man to swim the 100-meter freestyle faster than 49 seconds, and by 1988 he owned the ten fastest times swum in that event. He won a total 24 U.S. Championships in the 50, 100, and 200-meter freestyle events, as well as the 100-butterfly. In two World Championships (1986 and 1991), Biondi won 11 medals including six gold. During his career, he was a **James E. Sullivan Award Finalist**, the **UPI** (United Press International) **Sportsman of the Year**, the **USOC** (United States Olympic Committee) **Sportsman of the Year**, and **twice the Swimming World magazine Male Swimmer of the World** (1986 and 1988).

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He is a member of the United States Olympic Hall of Fame and the International Swimming Hall of Fame.

RETIREMENT

Biondi **announced his retirement from competitive swimming in 1992** and went to work on the "celebrity circuit," giving motivational speeches in as many as twenty cities a month, endorsing swimsuits and sunglasses, opening supermarkets, giving instructional clinics. He and Jager competed in a series of lucrative exhibition races. **Biondi generated a six-figure income, but it was a difficult existence for someone who is shy and protective of his privacy.**

Where Is He Now?

Since the fall of 2001, Matt Biondi has taught high school math at Parker School in Kamuela, Hawaii. "Instead of addressing adulatory fans on the rubber-chicken circuit, Biondi stands before a room of sarcastic teenagers and he loves it," Sports Illustrated reported. He lives with his wife and two sons in a small house and bicycles a quarter-mile to work. The man who once said his grueling competitive career left him "scarred for swimming," continues to distance himself from his past. "When he had two job offers from Hawaii private schools," Sports Illustrated said, "he chose the school that didn't have a swim team."

BONDI'S DELPHYS FOUNDATION

In 1989 Matt Biondi **co founded the Delphys Foundation** (with which he continues to be active), **a nonprofit organization that supports marine mammal research and education and studies interactions between proficient human swimmers and free-swimming wild dolphins.** He costarred in the CBS special Dolphins, Whales and Us, hosted two educational programs developed by the Delphys Foundation, and campaigned for consumer awareness and dolphin safe tuna with Humane Society in 1989.

TRIVIA

- Matt Biondi made a point of being the slowest person in the pool during warm up, no matter the skill level of the other swimmers surrounding him.
- "He has the ability to feel the water, much like an artist feels the canvas and a pianist feels the keys," said Nort Thornton, Biondi's coach at UC Berkeley

Quotes

“Enjoy the journey, enjoy every moment, and quit worrying about winning and losing.”

Quiz

1. In which year was Matt Biondi born?
2. In 1989 Matt Biondi co founded the _____ Foundation.
3. Biondi announced his retirement from competitive swimming in _____.

Send your answers with your name and department to one2one@clarislifesciences.com

First 3 correct answers will get Clarista coupon worth RS. 50.

Last Quiz Winners

Pavan Gajjar - iCubix • **Alpesh Mehta** - Costing

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